

To John Bruce

31 Dec 40

My dear Sir

I this moment receive your
very kind & handsome (much to hand-
some) note. ^{from}

You have gone far beyond
anything I had a right to expect, in
relinquishing the project respecting an
Edition of Shakespeare at once. Neither
perhaps would it be quite politic to
give it out as abandoned entirely, be-
cause the matter is yet unsettled between
me and the Booksellers. What I wanted
from you was the means of saying that

if the proposal were brought to a contract, the Shakespeare Society would not interfere with the scheme or thwart it by persevering with their project.

If we were to promulgate at once that there was an end of the matter, as far as the Shakespeare Society is concerned, the Bookseller (who are sly rogues, as you may know) might say "Well, we have induced them to relinquish their edition, and we may now take our time ^{preparing} and publishing our own."

As to Mr Barnes & Mr Thoms, I should act by them, as I am sure they will be disposed to act by me. If a leading Bookseller heard some to either of them with a proposal for a new edition

of Shakespeare, I should not for an instant have thought of standing in their way by means of the Society. It may be well for them to know that an offer of the kind has been made to me, and that therefore, for the present, you are induced (most considerately) to defer your design.

I sent Mr Thom, two names for the Grainger Society, and I presume he has received them - viz

Frederic Quory Esq, and his sister,
Miss Quory, 49 Oxford Terrace.

This was the lady of whom I spoke.

Reverting to the Shakespeare Society, I have sought to have, great remorse in accepting your ^{ready} relinquishment of a favourite project. Of course I only accept it conditionally; for if the Bookellers at all shilly shally, I will

at once go to work with you, heart
and hand, in despite of them.

Of course I shall do my
best with any projected edition, and
after the time & attention I have de-
voted to Shakespeare & our ^{Id} Drama
it would merely be laughable affect-
ation if I denied that I had a few
aid & entages. Nevertheless, I shall
have much & frequent occasion to
resort to my friends and to avail my-
self of your offer. I shall rely both
upon your aid and your judgment.
Again thanking you very heartily I
remain,

My dear Sir

Yours most sincerely
obliged

24 Brompton Sq
Dec. 31. 1840.

J. Pague Collier